

*I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you,  
always praying with joy for all of you in my every  
prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the  
first day until now.*

– Philippians 1:3-5



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF SENOIA

Jesus instructed his followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in his name, and teaching them to obey all he has commanded. To accomplish this great task, the church must point others toward Jesus Christ and teach them to follow him. I've been told, "People don't care what you know until they know that you care." The previous quote has been attributed to various people, but regardless of who said it first, I believe it's generally true. This is where I see The i58 Mission partnering with the local church.

- How can the church reach and meet the physical needs of the community?
- Where can the church go to serve the community?
- Who in the community needs to hear and see the love of Jesus?
- How can the church build relationships with the community?
- How can the church strengthen relationships among her own people?

In Senoia, GA and the surrounding area, the answer to every one of these questions can be found at The i-58 Mission. Our church has a longstanding relationship with i-58, one that I am only recently learning. I have been the pastor of First Baptist Church of Senoia for two years and have tremendous respect for the ministry of i-58. During the week, the volunteers work tirelessly to sort and wash clothes, stack canned food and fill refrigerators, prepare shopping displays, and so much more.

Thursday is when it all comes together. The volunteers and staff make i-58 a warm and welcoming place where the joy of the Lord is clearly on display. Every client that enters the door is greeted with a friendly smile, and if isn't their first time, called by name. Soon everyone is seated to listen to a gospel message and worship through song. After the devotion, the clients are called up to shop for the items they wish for the coming week.

I have delivered the message several times and always find it a joy to speak and pray with clients afterwards. Sometimes they give me an encouraging word. Sometimes they ask for godly counsel. Sometimes they just need someone to listen to them. I usually arrive thinking I am to be a blessing, but always leave as the recipient of the blessing.

If the church is serious about its mission, then it needs ministries like i-58. Perhaps some churches can staff and support similar ministries on their own. As for my church, and dozens more like it in our area, we need a ministry like i-58. And, if I may be so bold, i-58 needs churches like mine. We are a better church because of our partnership with i-58.

Grace and Peace,  
BJ Cobb, *Pastor*  
First Baptist Church of Senoia